

Women Farming Group Empowerment Model in Improving Family Economy in Boentuka Village, Timor Tengah Selatan

*Reisanty M. Djami

Business Administration
Department,
State Polytechnic of Kupang
Kota Kupang, Indonesia
melandjami3105@gmail.com

Heni M. Sauw

Business Administration
Department,
State Polytechnic of Kupang
Kota Kupang, Indonesia
henisauw1703@gmail.com

Yefta Sanam

Business Administration
Department,
State Polytechnic of Kupang
Kota Kupang, Indonesia
yeftasanam@gmail.com

Abstract— This study aims to: 1) To determine the empowerment of women in order to improve the family economy through the Women Farmers Group. 2) to find out the supporting and inhibiting factors of the Women Farmers Group in improving the family economy. This research is a descriptive research with a qualitative approach. The subjects of this study were village officials, community leaders, members of KWT (Group of Women Farmers) in Boentuka Village. Data was collected using the methods of observation, interviews, and documentation. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method, namely by describing and systematically interpreting facts and characteristics appropriately. This result The results showed that the Women Farmers Group (KWT) of Boentuka village in carrying out their activities using a bottom-up empowerment model, from the community by the community and back to the community. The supporting factors are involvement in social activities, the availability of production facilities, the availability of transportation facilities, work networks and the availability of communication facilities. While the inhibiting factors are the level of education and access to educational facilities that are far away.

Keywords: Model, empowerment, Women Farmer Group

I. INTRODUCTION

Community economic development is something that must be considered in people's lives, of course in accordance with the potential and capabilities of the community, including rural communities which have so many abundant natural resources. In general, people will try to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, education and health. Including women, they will try to help their

husbands whose income is sometimes not enough to meet the needs of the family.

One of the villages that has abundant resources is Boentuka Village. This village is an inseparable part of Batu Putih District, South Central Timor Regency, East Nusa Tenggara Province. Geographically, Boentuka Village is bordered by the north by Benlutu hamlet, south by Oebobo, west by Tupan Village and east by Oehala Village. The population of Boentuka Village is ± 2019 people, consisting of 941 men and 1078 women, and has 516 families. The main livelihoods of the Boentuka residents are farmers and ranchers (90%) while the remaining 10% work as civil servants, the private sector, traders, and others.

Preliminary observations on women farmers and village heads showed that most of the people in Boentuka Village were farmers. The types of plants that are generally cultivated are citrus, corn, rice, beans, cassava, sweet potatoes and horticultural crops such as vegetables. Another effort made by local residents is to raise animals.

Seeing the condition in the community that the number of women in Boentuka village is more than men, it is necessary to empower women in order to support family income, one way is to form a women farmer group (KWT). KWT was formed so that groups can empower and develop all the potential possessed by women in processing their agricultural and garden products. Empowerment can be carried out through activities to improve the welfare of women who can help fulfill family needs. Empowerment is emphasized on providing skills so that jobs can be opened in the processing sector of agricultural products into various types of processing. Boentuka village has many agricultural and garden products that have not been used optimally, where the

productions is usually sold in raw or unprocessed form so that the selling value is cheap. In addition, it can provide awareness that men and women have equal opportunities to improve the family economy.

Seeing the above, the researchers are encouraged to conduct research on the model of Empowerment of Women Farmers Groups in improving the family economy in Boentuka Village, South Central Timor Regency.

Objectives in this study:

1. To describe how the model of women's empowerment to improve the family economy through the Women Farmers Group in Boentuka village.
2. Knowing the supporting and inhibiting factors of the Boentuka Village Women's Group in empowering women to improve the family economy.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Model

A model is a representation, pattern, reference of an object, object, or ideas in simplified form. A model contains information about a phenomenon created with the aim of studying the actual system phenomenon. A model can be an imitation of an actual object, system or event which only contains information that is considered important to be studied (Mahmud, 2008: 12)

2.2 Women Empowerment

According to Anwar (2007: 92) that the process of empowering women through out-of-school education programs basically must begin with awareness of the target community. The awareness step is intended to enable the community to be able to identify needs and formulate learning goals or life goals. Empowerment strategies can be through individual, group or organizational approaches, especially women's organizations. Meanwhile, the strategy of empowering women as equal partners to men uses a two-way approach – women and men, who respect each other as human beings, listen to and respect the wishes and opinions of others. Efforts to empower each other include efforts to awaken, support, encourage, and help develop the potential contained in individuals, so that they become independent human beings but still have personality. According to Aida Vitayala, (2010: 158) the essence of women's empowerment is an increase in the rights, obligations, position, abilities, roles, opportunities, independence, mental resilience, and spirituality of women as an

inseparable part of efforts to improve the quality of human resources.

2.3 Purpose of empowerment

According to Ambar Teguh (2010: 80) the goal to be achieved in empowerment is to form individuals and communities to become independent. This independence includes the independence of thinking, acting and controlling what they do. Community independence is a condition experienced by the community which is characterized by the ability to think, decide and do something that is deemed appropriate in order to achieve solving the problems faced by using the power of abilities consisting of cognitive, conative, psychomotor, effective, with the mobilization of resources. power by the internal environment of the community.

So the conclusion is that community empowerment efforts aim to make people independent, in the sense of having the ability to solve the problems they face and being able to meet their needs without having to depend on other people or outsiders for their lives. The target of empowerment itself is the poor who are not able to build themselves so they are not empowered.

2.4 Stages of Empowerment

According to Ambar Teguh (2004: 83), the stages that must be passed include: a. The stage of awareness and behavior formation towards conscious and caring behavior so that they feel the need to increase self-capacity. b. The ability transformation stage is in the form of knowledge insight, skills to open insight and provide basic skills so that they can take a role in development. c. The stage of increasing intellectual abilities, skills so that initiatives and innovative abilities are formed to lead to independence. In line with Sumodiningrat's opinion in Ambar Teguh (2004: 84), an independent society cannot be left alone. The community still needs guidances from the partners (government, higher educational institutions), so that with its independence it can carry out and take real action in development. In addition, their independence needs to be protected so that it can be properly nurtured and maintained, and can further shape the maturity of community attitudes.

2.5 Family Economic

The definition of economy is all that concerns matters relating to life in the household, of course what is meant and in its development the word household does not only refer to a family consisting of a husband, wife and children, but also households that broader, namely the

household of the nation, the state and the world (Iskandar Putong, 2002: 14).

There are several indicators that can determine the economic condition of the family in the community, including the level of education, type of work, income level, living environment conditions, ownership of wealth, and participation in group activities from the community. In the language of economics, the family consists of two words, namely economy and family. As has been explained that the economy is human behavior individually or collectively in using the factors they need. Family economy is all economic activities that aim to meet the needs of the family. Both for the fulfillment of primary and secondary needs. The main economic actor in a family is a man (father) besides that the role of a woman (mother) is also very influential on the economy in the family.

2.6 Farmers Women's Group

Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture No.273/Kpts/OT.160/4/2007 a farmer group is a collection of farmers/breeders/planters formed on the basis of common interests, common conditions, environment (social, economic, resource) and familiarity to improve and develop member businesses. Meanwhile, according to Purwanto in Munandar (2012: <http://arismunandar645.blogspot.com> accessed on March 23, 2013) a farmer group is a collection of farmers based on similarities, harmony in one socio-cultural environment to achieve the same goal, thus farmer groups have the characteristics of - characteristics as follows: 1) Membership of farmers 2) Close relationship between members 3) Have the same views, interests in managing their farm 4) Have the same type of business commodity 5) Farming that is cultivated is a functional/business bond 6) Has the same goal A farmer group is a group of farmers who grew up based on familiarity and harmony, as well as a common interest that utilizes agricultural resources to work together to increase farm productivity and the welfare of its members.

III. METHODS

3.1 Type of Research

When viewed from the type of place where the research is carried out, this research is classified as field research or field research, namely research that has the aim of collecting data and information about certain problems regarding the lives of the people who are the object of research. This study uses a qualitative approach perspective. Qualitative research in

general can be used for research on people's lives, history, behavior, organizational functionalization, social activities and others. In this study, the author uses a qualitative approach in identifying problems related to the model of community economic empowerment in the utilization of local potential because qualitative methods were developed to examine humans in certain cases.

3.2 Sampling Technique

The selection of the research area was carried out purposively which was the reason for determining the research area in order to reveal the utilization of rural local resources by rural communities. The sample selection of the research area was carried out after making observations, then 3 KWT were determined in the Boentuka village area, South Central Timor Regency.

3.3 Data Collection Method

Data collection to obtain primary and secondary data includes: a) observation, b) interviews, c) documentation, d) literature study, e) Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), namely methods that include; 1. Allows research subjects to express their skills. 2. Relationships with research subjects are more relaxed. 3. Share visually. 4. Research subjects can use categories or priorities to be achieved. 5. Sharing among research subjects, sharing experiences and knowledge. e) Focus Group Discussion (FGD) or group discussions.

3.4 Data Analysis Techniques

The data analysis technique used is descriptive method, which is a method that describes and interprets the research object as it is. The results of the report describe the state of the object or subject under study or describe the state of the object or subject under study.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Women Farmer Group Profile

The respondents in this study were 2 groups in the village of Boentuka. Chaired by Ms. Yuliana Nabunome. Members of this group actively participate in agricultural activities and the processing of agricultural and livestock products. This group often receives training from the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in processing agricultural and livestock products, such as processing banana chips, sweet potatoes, potatoes, pumpkins as well as making shredded beef and sei beef.

Women's groups are active in motivating women in their villages to support the family

economy, this is in line with the results of an interview with Mrs. Aksamina Tennis "I work hel my time between homework and group work that can provide me with an income. This is known by the husband and children, also the reason is low education, namely only elementary school graduates. Most of the respondents (KWT members) graduated from elementary school, junior high school and some even did not graduate from elementary school. At first only husbands worked. After a long time the need increased, they finally decided to work as farm laborers. In addition, respondents also said that respondents chose to work as women farmers because they did not have sufficient capital to open a business. By joining KWT, respondents can earn money. The level of education they achieve is SD and SMP. And for the age factor, their age is around 30-55 years.

From the results of interviews that researchers have conducted with 8 informants in Boentuka Village, Batu Putih Subdistrict, South Central Timor Regency, women farmers in the village have a dual role, namely earning income and taking care of their household. Some women farmers in Boentuka Village choose to work on agricultural land and livestock, not only because it is related to their husband's work but also because this work does not require money for capital. So that the money they have can be allocated to other needs. The division of roles in the household is still the same as the prevailing norms in society. Where husbands make a living and wives manage finances. It's just that in addition to maximizing income the mothers also work, so they feel the need to form a Women Farmers Group so that their work can support each other and help each other in their work.

In a society where the family as the smallest unit experiences an economic shortage, it is a strong reason for women to carry out economic improvement activities by carrying out activities to improve family welfare. This is one of the incentives for mothers to take useful actions to meet the needs of their families. This is also urged by the husband's insufficient income to meet his daily needs. This is the background and motivation for women in Boentuka Village to carry out their role as additional breadwinners for their households.

Forms of Activities of Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka village:

a. Land clearing

Clearing plantation land is the first step for the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in carrying out their activities. The routine activity in KWT is land clearing. The Women Farmers Group (KWT) in the village of Boentuka once a week holds a meeting in a land hut. And when there is no planting activity, the activity they do is clear the

land. Land clearing carried out by the Women Farmers Group (KWT) is done voluntarily.

b. Cultivation of food crops

Plants grown are generally in the form of food crops such as cassava, pumpkin, banana, corn, potatoes, oranges, major vegetables and medicinal plants such as ginger, galangal, turmeric, lemongrass, kencur and so on. KWT is capable of planting 2-4 times.

c. Harvest of food crops

Harvesting of crops is done together. Harvesting is done according to maturity.

d. Food crop processing

Besides being sold to middlemen, the Women Farmers Group (KWT) also processes the harvested produce into snacks. To increase the income from the harvest, the Women Farmers Group (KWT) of Boentuka village then sells the food in shops or sells it when there are exhibition events in the village, district, or province. The processed products of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) are processed fried corn, corn chips, bosc corn, cassava chips, potatoes, bananas and pumpkins. Currently, the Boentuka Village KWT does not yet have a label and packaging, so it is only packaged with ordinary plastic. This makes their processed products less attractive and so their product marketing is not yet well known.

4.2 Women's Empowerment Model for Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka Desa Village

The model is a reference of something that will be made or produced. The model can also be an idea that describes a concept or way of working that is applied by a group in carrying out the empowerment process. To analyze the empowerment model, there are indicators found. The following are the findings of the researchers as follows:

a. Sources of Funding Women Farmers Group (KWT) Boentuka Village is an empowerment group for women in Boentuka Village which was formed in 2016. The establishment of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) is a program of the Agriculture Service of the TTS Regency. At the beginning of the establishment in the village of Boentuka, this KWT capital from the government amounted to Rp. 1,000,000 (one million rupiah) along with plant seeds. The formation of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka village is also inseparable from the support from the village government. The support provided by the Village Government is in the form of land and the establishment of garden cottages on KWT land. However, this funding only lasted for 2 years, and so on in the development of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in the village of

Boentuka, the funding sources were managed independently. Since the last 3 years the Women Farmers Group (KWT) of Boentuka village has started to stand alone. There is no longer any assistance for their Women Farmers Group (KWT). This KWT in carrying out its activities uses group cash funds. This cash fund is sourced from the sale of harvested produce which is sold to middlemen, the sale of processed products into snacks which are then marketed to the public or through exhibition events.

- b. **Community development participation.**
Through participation allows individuals to play a role in society. In this case the Women Farmers Group (KWT) of Boentuka village involved themselves collectively to participate in various activities. The agency certainly will not give up on the sustainability of the empowerment program, for that it is necessary to have a companion in empowerment. Facilitators in the empowerment process have a role to assist in the implementation process of each of their group activities.
- c. **Public welfare**
Through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka village, women not only gain experience, knowledge through socialization, mentoring or teaching. However, through this group, they can fulfill their household needs. The Women Farmers Group (KWT) has a profit-sharing system. When getting a large harvest, the Women Farmers Group (KWT) distributes money, usually before the holidays and the beginning of education, which can help buy supplies for children who go to school.

From the above indicators, the program implementation of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka Village, Batu Putih District, TTS Regency is an empowerment program that relies on the community. Where the model used in the Boentuka village KWT is a bottom-up approach model, from the community, by the community and for the community. In carrying out activities in the field, this economic empowerment program is carried out at the initiative of the community. The community has a very important role and is required to be actively involved in the implementation of empowerment programs. This is due to the fact that the government is starting to get out of hand and completely hand over the implementation of the program to the community. The key to the success of the KWT work program is to involve the participation of the community itself. As for the participation of the facilitator as a motivator so that the Boentuka Village KWT continues to run its program independently and independently and the most important thing in the

empowerment program is the achievement of welfare. The welfare experienced by women who are members of the Women Farmers Group (KWT) of Boentuka village in the form of additional income and the fulfillment of household needs so that the family economy is also fulfilled.

The KWT empowerment model in Boentuka village is carried out by means of a Focus Group Discussion (FGD), which is a focused discussion. The model is formulated based on a factor analysis of the needs of KWT members in their business in agriculture and animal husbandry. The FGD was attended by 8 respondents from KWT and the local village government.

The model formulated as follows:

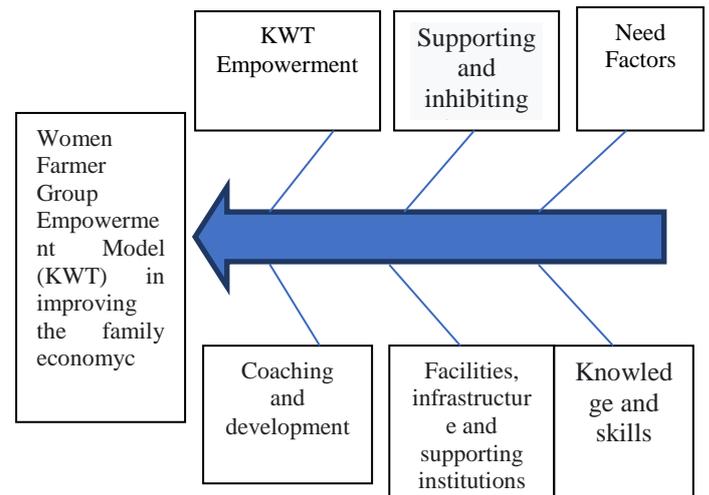


Figure 1. The Model formula

4.3 Supporting and Inhibiting factors

The supporting factors for the Women Farmers Group of Boentuka Village in empowering women to improve the family economy include:

1. Involvement in social activities
Involvement in organizational activities will help respondents to be more active in obtaining information.
2. Availability of production facilities
Namely the availability of land, livestock, seeds, fertilizers, agricultural and livestock tools as well as tools in processing the results.
3. Availability of transportation facilities
Namely decent roads, 2-wheeled and 4-wheeled vehicles that facilitate access to buying and selling agricultural and livestock products.
4. Networking
That is high mutual cooperation and mutual motivation.
5. Availability of means of communication

Namely the current state of communication is getting easier because it can use mobile phone facilities.

While the inhibiting factors of the Women Farmers Group in Boentuka Village in empowering women to improve the family economy include:

1. Education level
The level of education that is still lacking causes a person to be less skilled because of a lack of knowledge. Most of the respondents are elementary school education only.
2. Inadequate access to educational facilities
This is an inhibiting factor so that people do not continue their education to a higher level.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that Whereas the model in empowering women through the Women Farmers Group (KWT) in Boentuka village is to use a bottom-up approach, namely from the community, by the community and for the community, while still prioritizing elements of KWT empowerment, increasing supporting factors and overcoming inhibiting factors, need factors, coaching and development factors, infrastructure and supporting institutions factors as well as increasing knowledge and skills of KWT in particular the community in general so that the community's economy can prosper. Supporting factors are involvement in social activities, availability of production facilities, availability of transportation facilities, work networks and availability of communication facilities. Meanwhile, the inhibiting factors are the level of education and access to educational facilities that are far away.

REFERENCES

- [1] Achmad, Mahmud. 2008. *Simulation and Modeling Techniques*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University.
- [2] Aida Vitayala. (2010). *Empowering Women from Time to Time*. Bogor: IPB Press
- [3] Ambar Teguh S. (2010). *Partnerships and Empowerment Models*. Yogyakarta: Gava Media
- [4] Anwar (2007). *Women's Empowerment Management (Social Change Through Vocational Skill Learning in Fisherman's Families)*. Bandung: Alfabeta
- [5] Ayub M. Padangaran, *Community development project management, theoretical concepts and applications*. Unhalu Press, November 2011
- [6] Iskandar Putong, 2002. *Introduction to Micro and Macroeconomics Edition 2*. Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia
- [7] Munifatuz Zahro, 2017, *The Role of Women Farmers Groups in Urban Community Economic Empowerment*". Thesis of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.
- [8] Moleong L.J. (2000). *Qualitative Research Methods*. Bandung: Rosda Karya
- [9] Rina Setiawati, 2013. *Community Empowerment Through Women Farmers Group (KWT) "Seruni" Based on Local Resources In Gamelan Hamlet Sendangtirto Berbah Sleman*", Thesis of Jakarta State University.
- [10] Sugiyono. (2010). *Quantitative, Qualitative and R&D Research Methods*. Bandung: Rosda Karya